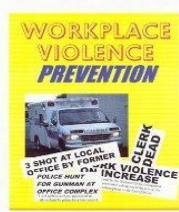




# COMMUNITY NEWS

District 1

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## Workplace Violence Prevention

Homicide is the second leading cause of fatal occupational injury in the United States. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics and National Crime Victimization Survey, nearly 1,000 workers are murdered and 1.5 million are assaulted in the workplace each year.

Although workplace violence by disgruntled employee's gets the most media attention and "going postal" has become a household term, the truth is between 75 to 85 percent of job related homicides are committed by unknown assailants while in the commission of another crime.

Most incidents of workplace violence take place at the hands of robbers, thieves and burglars and other outside assailants, rather than co-workers. Although violence by disgruntled employees is a growing problem, most of the time it is a stranger who is the attacker.

Workplace violence is the product of an interaction among three factors: the individual who takes violent action; a stimulus or triggering condition that leads the person to take the violent action; and a setting that facilitates or permits the violence or in which there is a lack of intervention. You may not have control over the first two factors but you do over the third.

Planning can be the number one deterrent to workplace violence. Having policies and procedures in place can make the difference in preventing workplace violence.

The following safety tips are recommended to help both employers and employees mitigate potential danger:

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## From The Desk Of Commander Jeff Walther

Here are a several personal safety tips that I gave this weekend at a Neighborhood Watch meeting. Please give them some consideration in your day to day lives in an effort to stay safe.

**On the Street:** Be aware of who is around you. If someone looks suspicious or makes you feel uneasy, avoid that person. Go inside a store or business if necessary. If you must make a cell phone call while you are walking, go to a safe, public place like a store. Make your call; then conceal your phone the way you would conceal your cash before going back to the street. Thieves want your phone almost as much as they want your wallet or purse.

**Your Car:** When leaving your car, lock it and close the windows. Take your key. Don't leave items inside your car even if you think they look like trash—they'll still look attractive to a thief. When you get in the car, close and lock the doors immediately. Keep the doors locked and the windows rolled up.

**At Home:** When you are exiting or unloading your car; when walking from your car to your home; or, when spending time in your front yard; be cautious of anyone on the street who makes you feel uneasy or whom you haven't seen before. If you see such a person in your front yard, quickly go inside and lock the doors. If you are in the car, stay in there with locked doors and windows. Either use a cell phone to call someone to escort you inside or drive away and come back later. NEVER open your door to anyone you do not know.

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### **Safety Tips for Employers:**

- Take a physical security survey of your workplace and review current policies and procedures. Enlist the aid of security professionals or your police department's crime prevention officer to help identify possible security vulnerabilities in landscaping, lighting, employee and visitor access, and signage.
- When hiring new employees check references, work history, criminal records and education thoroughly.
- Conduct full national background checks on all employees and contractors annually and provide yearly training on workplace violence prevention.
- Encourage all employees to report unusual or suspicious behavior. Make sure they know who to report problems to and take those reports seriously.
- Develop a clear, written policy that spells out procedures in cases of violence and emergencies.
- Establish a pre-determined code word for employees to use when they need immediate assistance.
- Install video surveillance cameras to monitor both inside and outside your business. Video surveillance can be a deterrent to potential thieves. It can also be a valuable tool to help identify perpetrators and aid law enforcement before, during and after a robbery, theft or other crime.
- Implement access control systems and visitor management systems to handle visitor and employee access. All employees and visitors should display proper identification badges at all times. Make sure to immediately update access control systems, I.D. cards and readers when an employee leaves the company.

### **Safety Tips for Employees:**

- Be aware at your workplace. If you notice someone unfamiliar to your office, someone without an I.D. card or behaving suspiciously, report it to your company's security team or your supervisor. Never approach anyone you think may pose a threat.
- Use the buddy system. If you ever feel unsafe walking to or from your car after work; walk with a trusted coworker or ask for a security escort.
- Keep personal items such as purses and wallets in a secure place out of sight. About 75 percent of workplace violence incidents are robbery related, so consider the use of a locked cabinet or desk drawer to secure your valuables at all times.
- Knowledge is power, so take time to review and learn about your company's policy on evacuations, lockdowns, and violence. Knowing what to do and where to go in an emergency can save lives.

Preventative measure like these are a key component in enhancing workplace safety, and can provide peace-of-mind for employers, employees and customers.

**The ATM:** Use ATM's in well lit, highly populated areas. Store and bank ATM's during the day are best. Scan the area before using the ATM. If you see a person loitering in the area for no apparent reason, go to another location. If you see something strange during your transaction, push cancel, take your card and leave the area. After the transaction, be alert. You'll have cash in hand making you a good target. Scan the area and leave immediately. If you suspect danger, promptly enter the nearest store or building where other people are located.

**Commander Jeff Walther**  
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For more information on crime prevention or additional opportunities to get involved in YOUR community contact Crime Prevention Officer Jen Wattier at 480-312-0275, email: [jwattier@scottsdaleaz.gov](mailto:jwattier@scottsdaleaz.gov), or District 1 Police Aide Sherry Cross at 480-312-5851, email: [scross@scottsdaleaz.gov](mailto:scross@scottsdaleaz.gov).

### **Upcoming Events**

#### **Shredding Event**

February 13, 2010; 9:00 am – noon (or until truck fills)  
Scottsdale Artist's School; 3720 N. Marshall WY  
Donations accepted for POSA Outreach (Police Officer's of Scottsdale Association). Suggested donation is \$2 per box.

#### **57<sup>th</sup> Annual Parada del Sol Parade**

February 20<sup>th</sup>, 2010; 10:00 am  
This "world's largest horse-drawn parade" features floats, horses, bands and tons of cowboy fun! More fun follows the parade in Old Town Scottsdale with the Trails End Celebration – dancing, entertainment and kids' activities. **Remember**, Scottsdale Road, from Camelback to McDowell roads, **will be closed from 6 a.m. to 2 p.m.**

### **Public Safety Community Contact Numbers and E-mail Links**

- **Scottsdale Police Non-Emergency** 480-312-5000
- **Scottsdale Fire Department** 480-312-8000
- **SPD Drug Enforcement Hotline** - Suspected illegal activity, 480-312-TIPS (Hot lines are not monitored)
- **SPD Traffic Enforcement Hotline** - chronic traffic problems, 480-312-CARS
- **Code Enforcement** 480-312-2546
- **Child Safety Seat Installation** 480-312-BABY
- **CPR/First Aid Classes** 480-312-1817